

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06115 01 OF 04 041809Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 AEC-05 EB-04 OMB-01 /069 W

----- 106167

R 041650Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8570

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 4 USNATO 6115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, IT, NATO

SUBJECT: ITALIAN FORCES FOR NATO

REF: A. STATE 056459

B. STATE 159115(NOTAL)

C. USNATO 5838

D. DPC/D(74)5, ITALY

SUMMARY. RESPONSE TO DPQ(74 INDICATES ITALY IS LARGELY MEETING 1974 NATO COMMITMENT, ALTHOUGH RESPONSE CONTAINS SOME AMBIGUITIES AND SHOWS ITALY FALLS SHORT OF 1974 COMMITMENT IN SOME DETAILS. PROJECTED 1975-79 COUNTRY PLANS SHOW MOVEMENT TOWARD SATISFYING NATO 1975-80 FORCE GOALS(REF D), BUT PLANS FALL SHORT OF GOALS IN MANY IMPORTANT AREAS. DPQ(74), WHICH DOES NOT PROJECT DEFENSE EXPENDITURES BEYOND FY 1975, SUGGESTS THAT CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WILL FORCE ITALY TO SLIP SEVERAL IMPORTANT MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PROSPECTS FOR ARRESTING DECLINING REAL TERM DEFENSE EXPENDITURES EVEN THOUGH ITALY PROJECTS A TEN PERCENT INCREASE IN MONETARY TERMS. IN 1975, ITALY PLANS TO SPEND ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF ITS DEFENSE BUDGET ON PERSONNEL COSTS AND ABOUT 16

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 06115 01 OF 04 041809Z

PERCENT ON MAJOR EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION. HIGHLIGHTS OF EQUIPMENT PROGRAM INCLUDE REPLACEMENT OF HONEST JOHN WITH LANCE, CONTINUATION OF LEOPARD TANK ACQUISITION PROGRAM (WITH SOME SLIPPAGE), PURCHASE OF TOW SYSTEM, COMPLETION OF F/RF-104G

MODERNIZATION OF TACTICAL RECCE SQUADRONS, AND MODERNIZATION OF SHIP BORNE SUFACE-TO-AIR AND SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEMS. DPQ(74) PROVIDES ALMOST NO INFORMATION ON ITALIAN PLANS TO REDUCE COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE. AT NATO MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION SESSION, MISSION PROPOSES TO PUSH FOR AN END TO DECLINE IN REAL TERM DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, FOR ARMY PERSONNEL IMPROVEMENTS, AND FOR INCREASED EMPHASIS ISSUES FORCE IMPROVEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. FORCES

A. ARMY. ITALIANS APPEAR TO MEET MAJOR UNIT COMMITMENT TO NATO UNDERTAKEN FOR 1974, ALTHOUGH DPQ(74) CONTAINS AMBIGUITIES IN THIS REGARD (E.G., DPQ(73) SHOWED 1974 COMMITMENT FOR THREE ARMORED BDES/RCTS; DPQ(74) LISTS THREE ARMORED CALAVRY UNITS, ONE OF WHICH IS ONE-HALF DIVISION SIZE). MISSION WILL TRY TO CLEAR UP AMBIGUITIES BILATERALLY WITH ITALIAN DELEGATION RATHER THAN POSE DETAILED QUESTIONS AT MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION. DPQ(74) LISTS ALL NATO COMMITTED UNITS IN "ASSIGNED/EARMARKED" STATUS, WHEREAS DPQ(73) SHOWED MAJOR HEADQUARTERS AND GROUND HUCLEAR DELIVERY AND SAM UNITS IN ASSIGNED STATUS. 1975 COMMITMENT IS SAME AS 1974 COMMITMENT. ITALY PROJECTS NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN FORCE STRUCTURE, BUT HAS UNDERTAKEN SOME MINOR HEADQUARTERS REORGANIZATIONS. ARMY WILL REPLACE HONEST JOHN WITH LANCE IN 1975, AND PLANS TO ACQUIRE LAUNCHERS AND 113 MISSILES; PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY WILL NOT FULLY IMPLEMENT FORCE GOAL 1L13. DPQ(74) PROVIDES LITTLE INFORMATION ON ITALIAN PERSONNEL POLICY. DPQ(74) MEMORANDUM STATES QUOTE THE MEASURES ADOPTED OR UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL, HAVE NOT YET GIVEN NOTABLE RESULTS, AND ARE STILL BEING VERIFIED... AS TO THE REDUCTION IN COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE, THE NATO-ESTABLISHED CONSULTATION PROCESS WITH NATO AUTHORITIES IS UNDERWAY END QUOTE. IN INFRASTRUCTURE FIELD, ITALIANS ARE CONTINUING PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN FORWARD DEFENSE POSITIONS AND HAVE COMPLETED 75 OF 83 QUOTE EMPLACEMENTS ON FLAT TERRAIN UNQUOTE AND 35 OF 38 MOUNTAIN BARRIER POSITIONS.

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 06115 01 OF 04 041809Z

(1) EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS. MODERNIZATION PROGRAM FOLLOWS NATO FORCE GOALS. HOWEVER, DPQ(74) STATES FULL ATTAINMENT OF FORCE GOALS IS CONDITIONED BY: (A) AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES, (B) AVAILABILITY OF PERSONNEL, AND (C) NEED TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF QUOTE PREVAILING NATIONAL INTEREST UNQUOTE.

(A) ARMOR/ANTI-ARMOR. LEOPARD TANK ACQUISITION PROGRAM HAS EXPERIENCED SOME SLIPPAGE; ITALIANS WILL HAVE ONLY 233 BY END-74 RATHER THAN 274 PREVIOUSLY PLANNED. ARMY WILL ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL LEOPARD TANKS ACCORDING TO FOLLOWING PROGRAM: 207 IN 1975, 245 IN 1976 120 IN 1977 (1L05). DURING 1974, ITALIANS WILL ACQUIRE 60 TOW LAUNCHERS AND PLAN TO COMPLETE PROGRAM FOR 130 SYSTEMS BY END JUNE 1975. M47 TANKS HAVE

REPLACED M36 SELF-PROPELLED ANTI-TANK GUNS. AFTER 1976, ITALIANS PLAN TO INITIATE ACQUISITION PROGRAM FOR SHORT AND MEDIUM RANGE WEAPONS OF FREE-FLIGHT ROCKET TYPE TO REPLACE RECOILLESS RIFLE, AND FOR 2ND GENERATION MISSILE SYSTEMS OF NATIONAL PRODUCTION TO REPLACE WIRE GUIDED MISSILES (1L04).

(B) WAR RESERVE STOCKS. DPQ(74) MEMORANDUM STATES THAT ITALY PLANS TO REACH 15 DAY STOCK LEVELS FOR ALL MATERIALS RELATED TO EXISTING AND MOBILIZATION UNITS BY 1978 AND TO REACH 30 DAY LEVELS AFTER 1980 (1L02). ONLY SIGNIFICANT SHORTAGES SHOWN IN AMMUNITION TABLES ARE 105 MM TANK (STOCK LEVEL IS 30.8 DAYS IN 1975 DECREASING TO 16.4 DAYS IN 1979, INDICATING AMMUNITION PROCUREMENT WILL NOT KEEP PACE WITH ACQUISITION OF LEOPARD TANKS), MORTAR (1979 STOCK LEVEL IS 10.4 DAYS FOR 120 MM, 14.5 DAYS FOR 81 MM), AND 155MM HOWITZER (26.8 DAYS IN 1979).M

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 06115 02 OF 04 041854Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 AEC-05 EB-04 OMB-01 /069 W

----- 106583

R 041650Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8571

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 4 USNATO 6115

(C) AIR DEFENSE. REGARDING FORCE GOAL 1L03, TO PROVIDE LOW-LEVEL AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY FOR COMBAT UNITS BY 1978, DPQ(74) STATES QUOTE THE TREND IS TO ACQUIRE, TOWARDS THE END OF THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD, 2ND AND 3RD CATEGORY WEAPON SYSTEMS UNQUOTE. ITALY PARTICIPATES IN HELIP PROGRAM, AND EQUIPMENT TABLE LISTS IMPROVED HAWK AFTER 1977.

(D) ELECTRONIC WARFARE. ITALIANS ARE UPGRADING EW UNITS (1L14) AND CONDUCTING STUDIES AND TESTS FOR DEFINITION OF EQUIPMENT CAPABLE OF COUNTERING SURVEILLANCE RADARS (1L15). DPQ(74) STATES EQUIPMENT NOW AVAILABLE CAN SUFFICIENTLY MEET REQUIREMENT FOR LOCATING ACTIVE INFRA-RED SOURCES. ITALIANS ARE ONLY CONSIDERING CONDUCTING STUDIES ON ECM WARNING AND

DEFENSE CAPABILITY AND ON INFRA-RED COUNTERMEASURES FOR HELICOPTERS (1L16). CONCERNING FORCE GOAL 1L17, DPQ(74) STATES THERE ARE, AT PRESENT, NO FEASIBLE SYSTEMS, OPERATIONALLY VALID, FOR SELF-PROTECTION AGAINST WIRE-GUIDED MISSILES OR FOR WARNING AGAINST LASER SYSTEMS. INsofar AS POSSIBLE, ITALIANS ARE PROVIDING ECCM CAPABILITY FOR NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (1L17).

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 06115 02 OF 04 041854Z

(E) OTHER IMPROVEMENTS. ITALIANS ARE CONTINUING MODERNIZATION AND UPGRADING OF ARMY AVIATION THROUGH INTRODUCTION OF 67 LIGHT AND 17 MEDIUM HELICOPTERS. AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAM TO MODERNIZE AND UPGRADE WHEEL VEHICLES IS ALSO UNDERWAY. IN ADDITION, ITALY WILL INTRODUCE 164 FH70 155 MM HOWITZERS AND 205,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION STARTING IN 1977, AND HAS JOINED TRIPARTITE PROGRAM WITH FRG AND UK TO ACQUIRE 200 SELF-PROPELLED FH70S IN POST 1980 PERIOD.

(2) PERSONNEL. DPQ(74) MEMORANDUM STATES ITALY IS CORRECTING SHORTAGES OF CAREER OFFICERS AND NCOS BY KEEPING EFFICIENT RESERVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCOS ON DUTY. ARMY LONG-TERM VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT PROGRAM (2 YEARS) IS CONTINUING AND ITALIANS HOPE TO ATTAIN LEVEL OF 24,000 VOLUNTEERS BY 1978. PEACETIME MANNING OF NATO UNITS AND OTHER FORCES FOR NATO AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1973 WAS 97 PERCENT OF WAR AUTHORIZED STRENGTH (WAS) FOR CATEGORY A UNITS AND 58 PERCENT FOR CATEGORY B UNITS. HOWEVER, ONLY NUCLEAR CAPABLE FIELD ARTILLERY BATTERIES, HAWK BATTERIES, AND LIMITED NUMBER OF NON-ORGANIC COMBAT SUPPORT UNITS ARE CATEGORY A; ALL MAJOR COMBAT UNITS (-ARMORED DIVISIONS, INFANTRY DIVISIONS, ETC), ARE CATEGORY B. ITALY APPEARS TO BE A LONG WAY FROM ATTAINING FORCE GOAL 1L01 AND APPARENTLY HAS NO PLANS TO DO SO. ESTIMATED ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH FOR END-1974 IS 260,000, WITH NO CHANGE PROJECTED DURING PLANNING PERIOD. REGULAR/CONSCRIPT RATIO OF 1:4.6 DOES NOT CHANGE DURING PLANNING PERIOD. WAS DROPPED FROM 613,575 IN 1973 TO 577,327 IN 1974, AND STABILIZES AT 575,000 FROM 1975 FORWARD. NUMBER OF RESERVISTS CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING REMAINS VERY LOW (2170 IN 1974, 2000 PER YEAR THEREAFTER).

B. NAVY. ITALY MEETS DPQ(73) COMMITMENT EXCEPT FOR REDUCED READINESS OF ONE LIGHT CRUISER (IN REFIT). 1975 COMMITMENT CONSISTS OF ONE CAT A-1 GUIDED MISSILE LIGHT CRUISER, SIX GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYERS (FIVE A1, ONE C5), THIRTEEN DESTROYERS/ESCORTS (ELEVEN A1, TWO C5), EIGHT SUBMARINES (SIX A1, TWO C5), EIGHT COASTAL ESCORTS (SIX A1, TWO C5), SIX FIAST PATROL BOATS (THREE A1, THREE C5), FOURTEEN ATLANTIC MPA AND 24 LAND-BASED ASW HELICOPTERS. ITALIAN FORCES UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND INCLUDE ONE OILER, TWO PERSONNEL TRANSPORTS, ONE TANK LANDING SHIP, 42 MINE WARFARE CRAFT, 33 EMBARKED ASW HELICOPTERS AND TWELVE TRACKER MPA. ITALY FALLS SHORT OF

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 06115 02 OF 04 041854Z

NATO 1975-80 FORCE GOALS FOR SHIP CONSTRUCTION IN ALMOST EVERY CATEGORY, WITH MAJOR DEFICIENCIES IN SUBMARINES, ESCORTS, AND GUIDED-MISSILE FAST PATROL BOATS(FPBG). DETAILS FOLLOW:

SUBMARINES: TWO GAZZANA CLASS SUBS PHASE OUT IN 1976 AND 1977, RESPECTIVELY; REPLACEMENTS ARE TWO SAVRO CLASS TO BE PHASED IN IN 1978/79. ITALY DOES NOT INTEND TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON ORIGINAL PLAN TO PROCURE TWO ADDITIONAL SAVRO CLASS SUBS AND AN EXTRA ATTACK SUBMARINE BY 1980 (NATO FORCE GOAL 1M02). PRESENT ITALIAN PLAN WILL LEAVE ITALY SIX SUBMARINES SHORT OF GOAL IN 1977 AND FOUR SHORT IN 1979, WITH APPARENTLY LITTLE PROSPECT OF CLOSING THE GAP IN POST 1979 PERIOD. ESCORTS: TWO DESTROYERS WILL LEAVE OPERATIONAL SERVICE IN 1975, ONE MORE IN 1976. INTRODUCTION OF GUIDED-MISSILE PATROL CRAFT WILL TAKE PLACE MORE THAN A YEAR BEHIND SCHEDULE, LEAVING SHORTAGES IN ALL YEARS. IN ADDITION, ITALY, FOR BUDGETARY REASONS, DOES NOT INTEND TO INTRODUCE FIVE GUIDED-MISSILE ESCORTS BY 1980 (1M03). BY 1980, ITALY WILL HAVE 20, RATHER THAN THE DESIRED 25, ESCORTS IN SERVICE, EIGHT OF WHICH WILL BE DEARLY OBSOLETE. FPBG'S: ITALIAN PROGRAM IS BEHIND PREVIOUS SCHEDULE EXCEPT FOR FIRST SHIP. FORCE GOALS CALL FOR SIX IN SERVICE BY 1977, ONLY THE FIRST WILL BE OPERATIONAL AT THAT TIME. REPLY STATES THREE MORE WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN 1978-79.

(1) EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS. DPQ(74) FURTHER INDICATES FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF NATO 1975-80 FORCE GOALS (NOT DEALING WITH SHIP CONSTRUCTION) IS NOT POSSIBLE, ESSENTIALLY BECAUSE OF BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS. STATUS OF BASIC ISSUES AND OTHER FORCE IMPROVEMENTS FOLLOWS:

(A) RE NATO FORCE GOAL 1M01, NAVY IS INSTALLING POINT DEFENSE MISSILE SYSTEMS (PDMS) ON 2 DORIA CLASS GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYERS (COMPLETION BY 1978) AND ONE GUIDED MISSILE LIGHT CRUISER (COMPLETION BY 1979); NAVY PLANS SIMILAR SYSTEM (STARTING AFTER 1978) FOR FOUR ADDITIONAL GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYERS. NAVY ALSO PLANS TO PROCURE, DURING 1976-77, LONG-RANGE AIR SEARCH RADAR FOR MISSILE SHIPS. ITALY IS MODERNIZING SHIPBORNE TARTAR AND TERRIER SAM SYSTEMS.

(B) ELECTRONIC WARFARE. MEMORANDUM STATES IMPROVEMENT OF SHIPBORNE ECM/ECCM CAPABILITY IS UNDERWAY AND
SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 06115 02 OF 04 041854Z

THAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WILL, BY 1980, PROVIDE SHIPS WITH QUOTE MINIMUM FITTING STANDARDS UNQUOTE IN EW EQUIPMENT (1M07).

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 06115 03 OF 04 041825Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 AEC-05 EB-04 OMB-01 /069 W

----- 106334

R 041650Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8572

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 4 USNATO 6115

(C) WAR RESERVES. MEMORANDUM STATES ITALY PLANS A GRADUAL INCREASE FOR WAR STOCKS BELOW THE 30 DAY LEVEL; INCREASE IS CONTINGENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING. EQUIPMENT TABLES REPORT THAT BY END-1974 ONLY ANTI-SUBMARINE WEAPONS, ANTI-SHIP TORPEDOES, AND SOME POL (DIESEL OIL AND MSFC) WILL BE AT 30 DAY LEVEL. EQUIPMENT TABLES PROJECT THAT BY 1979, STOCK SITUATION WILL IMPROVE SOMEWHAT, BUT MANY ITEMS (ESPECIALLY MISSILES, LONG RANGE SURFACE AND ANTI-AIR AMMUNITION, GASOLINE, AND SPARE PARTS) WILL REMAIN BELOW 30 DAY GOAL (1M09).

(D) SURFACE TO SURFACE MISSILE (SSM). ALTHOUGH PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE CONTINUES TO SLIP, NAVY STILL PLANS TO FIT SSMS TO ONE GUIDED MISSILE LIGHT CRUISER, FOUR (RATHER THAN SIX) GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYERS AND TWO DESTROYER ESCORTS.

(E) OTHER FORCE GOALS: ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT IS UNDER PRELIMINARY STUDY (1M08); IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT ITALY WILL ACQUIRE THEM DURING PLANNING PERIOD. ITALY PLANS TO CONVERT SURFACE UNITS CAPABLE OF UNDERGOING CONVERSION TO DISTILLATE FUEL QUOTE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AGE AND MODIFICATION COSTS INVOLVED UNQUOTE (1M15). MEMORANDUM STATES DEVELOPMENT OF A COASTAL RADAR NETWORK FOR AIR DROPPED MINES DETECTION AND SURFACE SEARCH IS UNDERWAY, WITH COMPLETION EX-SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 06115 03 OF 04 041825Z

PECTED BY 1976. FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO DEFENSE OF MARITIME BASES IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING (1M19). FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, ITALY CANNOT CONTRIBUTE ONE DESTROYER FOR CONTINUOUS ASSIGNMENT TO STANAVFORMED (1M12).

(2) PERSONNEL. ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH INCREASES SLIGHTLY FROM 44,594 IN 1974 TO 44,689 BY 1975, WHERE IT REMAINS FOR PLANNING PERIOD. APPROXIMATELY 42 PERCENT OF ACTIVE FORCE ARE REGULARS. ITALY ASSIGNS OVER 9,000 PERSONNEL TO SHIPS EACH YEAR IN THE

PLANNING PERIOD; THE PRECISE FIGURE FLUCTUATES BETWEEN 9,031 AND 9,900. TOTAL NAVY WAR AUTHORIZED STRENGTH (WAS) DROPS FROM 105,319 IN 1973 TO 99,334 FROM 1974 ONWARD. DPQ(74) REPORTS IN 1974 CAT A UNITS MANNED AT 87 PERCENT OF SHIP'S AUTHORIZED WAR COMPLEMENT, CAT B AT 38 PERCENT, AND CAT C AT 79 PERCENT; BY 1979, REPLY PROJECTS CAT A UNITS AT 91 PERCENT; CAT B AT 60 PERCENT AND CAT C AT 78 PERCENT. REPLY AGAIN DOES NOT EXPLAIN WHY ITALY GIVES HIGHER MANNING PRIORITY TO CAT C RATHER THAN CAT B SHIPS. MEMORANDUM NOTES RECRUITMENT DIFFICULTIES AND RESIGNATIONS HAVE CAUSED SOME PERSONNEL PROBLEMS, HENCE ITALIAN POLICY IS TO SAFEGUARD, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, NEEDS OF SHIPS AND NAVAL AIR COMPONENT, I.E., TO HAVE DEFICIENCIES AFFECT HEADQUARTERS AND SHORE ESTABLISHMENTS. RESERVISTS ROLL DROPS FROM ROUGHLY 17(THOUSAND IN 1973 TO 158 THOUSAND FROM 1974 ONWARD; ITALY PROJECTS APPROXIMATELY 68 THOUSAND WOULD BE RECALLED DURING FIRST 15 DAYS OF MOBILIZATION. ONLY 221 RESERVISTS RECEIVED REFRESHER TRAINING IN 1973; PROJECTIONS FOR PLANNING PERIOD ARE AS BLEAK. MEMORANDUM INDICATES SOME TRAINING DEFICIENCIES, CAUSED BY LACK OF EQUIPMENT, HAVE BEEN OVERCOME THROUGH BILATERAL EXERCISES WITH OTHER NAVIES.

C. AIR FORCE.

(1) GENERAL. ITALY IS MEETING ITS 1974 AIR FORCE COMMITMENT TO NATO EXCEPT FOR NON-COMPLETION OF OPERATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF ONE F-104G TACTICAL RECCE (TR) SQUADRON AND ONE G-91Y ATTACK (FBA) SQUADRON, AND ONE FBA SQUADRON IS BELOW UE. FOR 1975, GOI COMMITS FOLLOWING: SIX F-104S ALL-WEATHER INTERCEPTOR (AWX), ONE F-104G AND ONE F-104S STRIKE-ATTACK (FBS/A), TWO F-104S AND TWO G-91Y FBA, TWO G-91R LIGHT WEIGHT ATTACK/RECCE (LWA/R) AND THREE F/RF-104G TR SQUADRONS, AND TWELVE NIKE MISSILE UNITS. OF THESE FORCES, ITALY ASSIGNS THE SIX F-104S AWX SQUADRONS AND TWELVE MISSILE UNITS AND EARMARKS REMAINDER. ITALIAN AIR FORCE MODERNIZATION PLANS INCLUDE ACQUISITION OF 66 AIRCRAFT IN 1975-1979 PERIOD.

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 06115 03 OF 04 041825Z

GOI PLANS TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL F-104S AWX AIRCRAFT BEGINNING IN 1976 (1A01), EXPECTS TO HAVE COMPLETED REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE F-104G AIRCRAFT OF ONE FBS/A SQUADRON WITH MRCA AIRCRAFT BY END-1979, AND IS CONSIDERING REPLACEMENT OF ONE G-91R SQUADRON WITH G-91Y AIRCRAFT AND FORMATION OF A NEW MRCA SQUADRON (1A10). MODERIZATION OF THREE TR SQUADRONS WITH F/RF-104G AIRCRAFT IS UNDERWAY WITH ONE SQUADRON COMBAT READY AND THE REMAINING TWO TO BE COMBAT READY BY 1976 (1A02). COUNTRY PLANS ALSO INDICATE REPLACEMENT OF TWO C-119G SQUADRONS UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND WITH MODERN G222 TACTICAL AIR TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT (UE16) BEGINNING IN 1976 AND COMPLETING PROGRAM IN 1979 (1A15). PROJECTED COUNTRY PLANS ARE BEHIND NATO FORCE GOALS DURING MOST OF PLANNING PERIOD; HOWEVER, BY 1979 PLANS ACCORD WITH GOALS.

(2) EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS. STATUS OF BASIC ISSUES FORCE IMPROVEMENTS FOLLOWS:

(A) AIR DEFENSE. ITALY PLANS TO PROVIDE A SHORT-RANGE ALL-WEATHER GUN/MISSILE DEFENSIVE SYSTEM, CONSISTING OF MACHINE GUNS

AND SPADA SYSTEM, AT TEN ACTIVE AIR BASES (1A07). HOWEVER, DPQ(74) INDICATES NO PLANS TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR THE REMAINING NINE BASES (WARTIME DEPLOYMENT) OR TO PROVIDE SAM-LO BATTERIES FOR DEFENSE OF FBS/A AIRBASES (1A12).

(B) ELECTRONIC WARFARE (EW). COUNTRY PLANS INDICATE ONLY PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF EW-RELATED FORCE GOALS. ITALY PLANS TO INSTALL

NEW RADAR FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE GROUND RADAR SYSTEM, BUT NO OTHER ECCM CAPABILITY (1A03). A PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY TO EQUIP FBS, TR AND AWX AIRCRAFT WITH ECM/ECCM CAPABILITY, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE PROVISION FOR SELF-PROTECTION INFRA-RED COUNTERMEASURES COMPONENT BEFORE 1980.

(C) MODERN AIR MUNITIONS. WITH REGARD TO 1A08, DPQ(74) NOTES, WITHOUT PROVIDING DETAILS ON TYPES OF MUNITIONS, THAT ITALY IS PROGRAMMING ACQUISITION OF AMMUNITION FOR AIRCRAFT IN THE ACTIVE FORCE AND PLANS TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS APPROPRIATE TO THE NEW MRCA AIRCRAFT AS IT COMES INTO SERVICE.

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 06115 04 OF 04 041904Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-01 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 AEC-05 EB-04 OMB-01 /069 W

----- 106729

R 041650Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8573

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

S E C R E T SECTION 4 OF 4 USNATO 6115

(D) WAR RESERVE STOCKS. ITALY REPORTS SUBSTANTIAL SHORTAGES IN WAR RESERVE STOCKS OF CRITICAL ITEMS; ATTAINMENT OF 15 COMBAT-DAY LEVEL BY 1977 IS CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING AVAILABILITY. BY END-1979, ITALY PROJECTS WAR RESERVE STOCKS OF BETWEEN 15 AND 30 COMBAT DAYS (1A05).

(3) PERSONNEL. DPQ (74) REPORTS INCREMENTAL INCREASE OF ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL IN AIR FORCES FROM 67,970 IN 1974 TO 72,150 BY END-1979, WITH 28,930 AND 29,685 COMMITTED TO NATO IN RESPECTIVE YEARS. REGULAR/CONSCRIPT RATIO IS LITTLE CHANGED FROM 40,785/27,009 IN 1973 TO 41,230/26,740 BY END-1974. ITALIAN RESERVISTS DECREASE FROM 30,106 IN 1973 TO ESTIMATED 29,000 AT END-1974 AND LATER. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, AVERAGE ANNUAL FLYING HOURS PER CEW

MEMBER DECREASED DRAMATICALLY FROM 1973 TO 1974, AND ARE WELL BELOW NATO GOAL; F-104S AWX FROM 150 TO 57, F-104G/S FBS/A FROM 182 TO 88, F-104S FBA FROM 142 TO 70, G-91Y FBA FROM 126 TO 51, G-91R LWA/R FROM 142 TO 77, AND F/RF-104G TR FROM 106 TO 72. AIRCREW/AIRCRAFT RATIO FOR NATO-COMMITTED SQUADRONS AVERAGED BETWEEN 1.1 AND 1.2 IN 1974. FOOTNOTE IN DPQ(74) PROJECTS THAT DURING 1975-1979 PERIOD, AIRCREW/AIRCRAFT RATIO AND INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL FLYING HOURS SHOULD BE MORE THAN 1.2 AND 180, RESPECTIVELY.

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 06115 04 OF 04 041904Z

2. DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

A. ITALIAN RESPONSE TO DPQ(74) PROJECTS FY (ALSO CY) 1975 DEFENSE EXPENDITURES OF 2,945.2 BILLION LIRE, UP FROM 2,676.3 BILLION LIRE IN FY 1974. WHILE THIS IS A 10 PERCENT INCREASE IN MONETARY TERMS, MISSION ANTICIPATES A DECREASE IN REAL TERM ITALIAN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. DPQ(74) DOES NOT PROJECT DEFENSE EXPENDITURES BEYOND FY 1975. CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN ITALY RESULTING FROM MASSIVE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICITS, HIGHEST INFLATION RATE OF ANY MAJOR WESTERN COUNTRY (CURRENTLY NEARLY 19 PERCENT), CONTINUING LABOR UNREST AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY HOLD OPEN LITTLE CHANCE THAT ITALY WILL REVERSE DOWNWARD TREND OF REAL TERM DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AND SATISFY US OBJECTIVES (WITHIN CONTEXT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE) FOR ANNUAL INCREASE OF AT LEAST THREE PERCENT. USING OECD PROJECTIONS OF 1975 ITALIAN GNP, MISSION PROJECTS ITALIAN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES WILL BE 2.9 PERCENT OF GNP.

B. DPQ(74) PROJECTS EXPENDITURES FOR CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING MILITARY PENSIONS, AT 60.2 PERCENT OF 1975 DEFENSE BUDGET, COMPARED TO 58.8 PERCENT AND 61.2 PERCENT IN 1973 AND 1974, RESPECTIVELY. ITALY ANTICIPATES SPENDING 15.8 PERCENT OF 1975 DEFENSE BUDGET ON MAJOR EQUIPMENT, AMMO, EXPLOSIVES AND MISSILES; THIS COMPARES WITH 17.2 PERCENT AND 15.7 PERCENT IN 1973 AND 1974, RESPECTIVELY.

3. PROPOSED USNATO POSITION FOR MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION. AT THE MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF ITALIAN FORCE PLANS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 15 (REF C), MISSION PROPOSES TO OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

A. NOTE THAT WITHIN CONTEXT OF DRC DISCUSSION OF MINISTERIAL RESOURCE GUIDANCE, ITALIAN AUTHORITIES SUGGESTED QUOTE COUNTRIES TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AT LEAST FOR MEETING IN FULL INFLATIONARY PRICE AND PAY INCREASES. ANY POSSIBLE REAL INCREASE IN DEFENSE BUDGETS IS TO BE APPLIED TO PROGRAMS FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION. END QUOTE; ASK WHAT ACTION GOI PLANS TO ARREST THE DECLINE IN THEIR REAL TERM DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AND THUS MEET THEIR SUGGESTED FORMULATION FOR RESOURCE GUIDANCE.

B. REFER TO LOW PEACETIME MANNING OF ARMY MAJOR COMBAT UNITS AND POOR TRAINING PROGRAM FOR RESERVISTS, AND URGE ITALY TO CORRECT THESE DEFICIENCIES.

C. ENCOURAGE BASIC ISSUES FORCE IMPROVEMENTS, ESPECIALLY,
(1) WAR RESERVE STOCK LEVELS OF ARMY TANK AND ANTI-TANK

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 06115 04 OF 04 041904Z

WEAPONS, NAVY AIR DEFENSE MISSILES AND AIR FORCE MODERN MUNITIONS.

(2) ECM WARNING AND DEFENSE CAPABILITY, TO INCLUDE INFRA-RED
COUNTERMEASURES, FOR ARMY HELICOPTERS AND AIR FORCE AWX AIRCRAFT.
MCAULIFFE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO06115
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741185/abbryygk.tel
Line Count: 496
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 056459 B. STATE 159115(NOTAL) C. USNATO 5838 D. DPC/D(74)5, ITALY
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <28-Oct-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN FORCES FOR NATO
TAGS: MPOL, IT, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USLOSACLANT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

